

REMARKS

The indication that claims 1-5 and 7-14 have been allowed and that claim 16 includes patentable subject matter is acknowledged with thanks. In reliance thereon, the subject matter of claim 16 has been added to claim 15 and claim 16 has been canceled to place the application in condition for allowance.

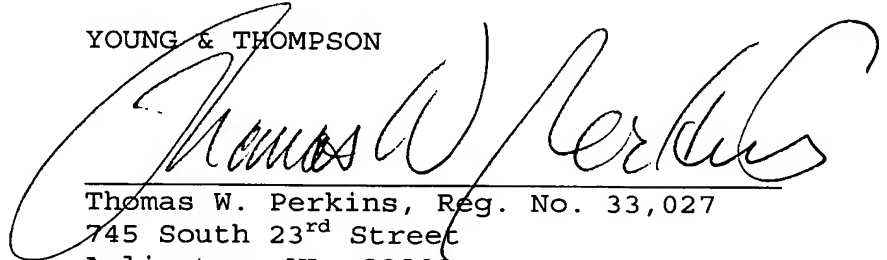
Claim 15 was rejected as anticipated by SAKUMA et al. 6,545,803. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested in view of the present amendment in which the subject matter of allowable claim 16 has been added to claim 15.

In view of the present amendment, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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TWP/lrs